Sir

The reason which hath induced Swizzerland as well as other Republics of Europe to place their ſecurity in a Militia capable of Supporting their Independency is the Want of the neceſsary means to maintain a Standing Army. this reason has a much greater weight in the United States, where it would be impoſsible to keep up Armies numerous Enough to defend So extensive a Country from Every hostile invasion, Especially when the naval force of our Enemies is ſo much ſuperior to us.

It is then in our Militias that we must find the real Strength which we are to oppose to that of Great Britain, and these are indeed the most respectable Forces, which consist of noble Citizens, who animated by the noblest motives defend their Country and their Liberty.— Our busineſs is then now to find out the means of rendering that Militia capable to ſupply the

His Excellency T. Johnson Esq. Govr of Maryland

Want of a well regulated Standing Army, at least as much as lies in our Power.

These means should be simple. Uniformity in the formation, in the March and in the motions of the Troops; and the keeping them together in order are the most Essential Points

In the Composition of the first part of the regulations which have been just published; I have Established general Principles as easy and as convenient for our Regiments of Militia as for the Continental Army, putting aside the Manual Exercise, which I look on in some part as superfluous. The rest may be introduced without the least difficulty and the greatest Advantage will result, when a Body of Militia will join the Army, as well as when it will act Separately.

I am induced by this reason to address a Copy of these Regulations to Your Excellency, and submit them to your Judgment, and in case you are of opinion that these Rules actually introduced in our

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Army may ſerve also for the Militia of your State, I have not only engaged with the Continental Board of War, to keep copies of them in readineſs for the Legislatures of the Several States who will demand them, but I expect only your Orders to request of the Commander in Chief to Send you an Officer capable of introducing them, and giving the neceſsary Explanations.

I have the honor to be
With the greatest respect
Sir
Your Excellency's
Most obedient
and very humble
ſervant.
Steuben
Maj: General

Philadelphia
April 20th 1779.

On the Service of the United States.

His Excellency
Thomas Johnson Esqr.
Governor of the State
of Maryland
Annapolis

20th. April 1779.
The Baron Steuben

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